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March 7, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**SENATE BILL 655
SUPPORT**

Re: Senate Bill 655 – Income Tax – Credit for Firearm Safety Devices

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”), and our industry members located throughout the state of Maryland, I write today to express our support for Senate Bill 655 (“SB 655”). Senator Carter’s SB 655 would create a State income tax credit up to \$250 for the purchase of certain firearm safety devices.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. We represent more than 10,000 members which include federally licensed manufacturers, wholesale distributors and retailers of firearms, ammunition and related goods and accessories, as well as public and private shooting ranges, sportsmen’s clubs, and endemic media, including close to 100 businesses located in Maryland.

For more than 50 years, NSSF has encouraged gun owners to safely handle and securely store firearms, and over the last few decades, we have provided valuable resources and free firearm safety kits, including cable-style gun locks through the Project ChildSafe® program, to help prevent firearms accidents, thefts and misuse, including suicide. While we oppose mandatory storage requirements for law-abiding gun owners, recognizing that each person’s living situation may be different, we do acknowledge that promoting true firearm safety and education programs is key to preventing accidents.

Senator Carter’s SB 655 would create an incentive for law-abiding Marylanders to purchase firearm safety devices by allowing a credit of up to \$250 to one’s State income tax responsibilities. In doing so, a small barrier would be removed to one acquiring safe storage devices. The last thing members of the firearm industry want to see or hear about is their products being misused. Certainly, we can all come together to support Senator Carter’s tax credit for the purchase of firearm safety devices.

NSSF and our members are proud to have contributed to declines in firearms accidents and remain committed to further reducing incidents of unauthorized access to firearms.

It is for these reasons, the National Shooting Sports Foundation is proud to support Senator Carter’s Senate Bill 655, creating a tax credit for the purchase of firearm safety devices, and we would respectfully request a “Favorable Report.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor W. Santos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and "S".

Trevor W. Santos